

## OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE PLAN FOR WASTEWATER TREATMENT STRIP

Landowner/user: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

A properly operated and maintained **Wastewater Treatment Strip** is an asset to your property. This treatment strip was designed and installed to remove sediment, organic matter, chemicals, nutrients or other pollutants from runoff or wastewater, thereby reducing pollution. The estimated life span of this practice is at least 10 years. The life span can be assured and usually increased by developing and carrying out a good operation and maintenance program.

This practice will require you to perform periodic operation and maintenance to maintain satisfactory performance. The following are some requirements to help you develop a good operation and maintenance program.

### Operation and Maintenance

1. The grass area acts as an absorption area and natural filter for runoff or wastewater that has a minimum amount of solids. Remove as many solids as possible by frequent scraping of barnyard areas and/or frequent cleaning of settling basins and tanks.
2. Weekly wastewater applications should not exceed the design rate, usually one inch per week.
3. Maintain a healthy stand of vegetation by mowing at least once a week to control noxious weeds and stimulate growth. Remove the clippings from the treatment strip after mowing. The grazing of treatment strip shall not be permitted.

### Inspection and Maintenance

1. Divert surface water away from the treatment strip. Check the channels and berms of the clean water diversions frequently. Channels should be protected from erosion and berms maintained at proper height so that diversions maintain their design capacity.
2. Install and maintain a fence around the treatment strip to exclude livestock.
3. Check settling basin or tank frequently. Empty the contents as necessary and spread in accordance with the overall management plan.
4. The distribution system should be checked frequently to determine if it has become clogged with solids. Clean out and repair as needed.

5. Inspect and check the grade of the distribution system on a monthly basis. If the distribution system is not level then it should be adjusted, repaired or replaced as necessary.
6. Inspect the treatment strip frequently to check for rills or small channels. Repairs must be made immediately to reestablish sheet flow. Small gravel berms may be installed on the contour across the treatment strip to reestablish sheet flow. Recommended gravel berm spacing shall be 30 feet.
7. The downstream limit of the treatment strip shall be monitored frequently to see if polluted effluent is leaving the strip. If polluted effluent is observed, make a thorough inspection of the filter strip to insure all components are working as designed. Make repairs as necessary. Contact your local NRCS office if polluted effluent continues to discharge from the treatment strip.

Specific Requirements for Your Practice

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